



Sept. 5, 2000

MEDIA ADVISORY

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Cornerstone Ceremony for New EPA Campus to be Held Sept. 11

Research Triangle Park, NC... U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Carol Browner, U.S. Representatives David Price and Bob Etheridge and other local, state and federal officials will participate in a Cornerstone Ceremony for the new EPA campus on **Monday, Sept. 11, at 11 a.m.** at the new facility under construction on Alexander Drive in Research Triangle Park.

A cornerstone for the main entrance of the facility will be unveiled at the ceremony in celebration of the near completion of the \$272.7 million, one million-square-foot complex. Construction is more than 75 percent complete. The new EPA Campus will replace seven leased facilities in the Triangle area, providing state-of-the-art research laboratories and modern office space for 2,000 employees and contractors. The new campus will be EPA's largest operation outside Washington, DC.

The Research Triangle Park is the epicenter of EPA's national air research and air regulatory programs and is the location of many of the Agency's other environmental research activities. Research is conducted to determine the health effects of air pollutants; to determine how humans are exposed to pollutants and to develop better technologies to prevent and control air pollution. The EPA offices that oversee the development of national standards for air pollution are also located in RTP.

Construction of the new facility began in July 1997 and the main campus is scheduled for completion in early 2001. EPA plans to begin moving into the facility next summer. The final phase of the project will include the National Computer Center, currently under construction, and a Child Care Center jointly operated by the EPA and National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences that will be built after completion of the main facility.

The facility is now recognized internationally as a model for sustainable buildings for its green building features and construction practices. The U.S. Green Buildings Council has used the EPA facility to develop standards for sustainable design.

LOCATION: EPA New Campus on Alexander Drive, Research Triangle Park, NC. Media should follow the signs to Media Parking. This is a construction site with hard-hat only areas. All visitors must stay within the designated site for the cornerstone ceremony.

CONTACT: Ann Brown, 919-541-7818 or by cellular telephone the day of the event at 919-605-5827.

Following the ceremony a press tour of the new facility will be available.

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